



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION III
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103-2029

June 21, 2019

Basil Seggos
Commissioner
Department of Environmental Conservation
625 Broadway
Albany, New York 12233-1011

Dear Commissioner Seggos:

Enclosed please find the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) evaluation of New York's draft Phase III Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP). It is EPA's role under the 2010 Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load's accountability framework to evaluate the seven Chesapeake Bay watershed jurisdictions' draft and final Phase III WIPs to determine whether there is confidence the jurisdictions will achieve their respective partnership approved Phase III WIP planning targets by 2025. The Phase III WIPs are a critical piece toward the continued restoration of the Chesapeake Bay and a demonstration of the actions state and local partners intend to implement between now and 2025.

This evaluation of New York's draft Phase III WIP is based on both the numeric and programmatic commitments reflected in New York's draft Phase III WIP document and the Best Management Practice implementation scenario submitted through the Chesapeake Bay Program (CBP) partnership's Chesapeake Assessment Scenario Tool. This evaluation also reflects decisions that New York has made with the CBP Partnership. EPA's feedback focused on what the Agency views as key strengths of the draft WIP, as well as potential enhancements to be addressed in the final Phase III WIP. The intent of these potential enhancements is to increase EPA's confidence that New York will achieve its Phase III WIP planning targets by 2025.

I greatly appreciate all of the incredible work over the last few years by the New York Department of Environmental Conservation, the Department of Agriculture and Markets and other state agencies and local partners in the development of New York's draft Phase III WIP. I look forward to working with you and your staff on addressing the identified potential enhancements in EPA's evaluation prior to the submission of the final Phase III WIP.



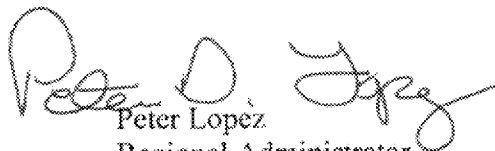
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Thank you for your leadership on these issues and your continued commitment to restoring the Chesapeake Bay.

Sincerely,



Cosmo Servidio
Regional Administrator
Region 3



Peter Lopez
Regional Administrator
Region 2

cc: James Tierney, Assistant Commissioner, Water Resources
Richard Ball, Commissioner, Department of Agriculture & Markets